Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 OES-07 HEW-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 HA-05 MCT-01 IO-13 OPR-02 SY-05 /069 W
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R 071111Z DEC 77 FM AMCONSUL KADUNA TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3815 AMCONSUL IBADAN

CONFIDENTIAL KADUNA 1271

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, NI

SUBJECT: STUDENT BOYCOTT AND CONFRONTATION WITH POLICE RESULTS IN CLOSURE OF KADUNA POLYTECHNIC

REF: KADUNA 1256

- 1. IN FACE OF CONTINUED BOYCOTT OF CLASSES BY KADUNA POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS OVER OND/HND ISSUE (REFTEL), POLYTECH BOARD CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY INDEFINITE CLOSURE OF SCHOOL. WE HAVE HAD REPORTS FROM NIGERIAN CONTACTS OF STUDENT STONE-THROWING AT TEACHERS AND POLICE ON MONDAY AND EARLY TUESDAY MORNING. NEW NIGERIAN REPORTS THAT TEAR GAR WAS USED YESTERDAY BY RIOT POLICE TO DISPERSE PICKETING STUDENTS WHO WERE "ARMED WITH MISSILES."
- 2. DESPITE WEEKEND ANNOUNCEMENT BY POLYTECHNIC AUTHORITIES THAT LECTURERS AND STUDENTS REPORTING FOR CLASSES ON MONDAY WOULD BE PROTECTED, ONE NIGERIAN SOURCE TOLD PO AND DESK OFFICE THAT AT 10:00 A.M. MONDAY NO POLICE WERE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY, ENTRANCES OF WHICH BARRICADED BY STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS. BY 1230 THAT DAY CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF POLICE WERE SEEN BY PO AT ONE POLYTECHNIC LOCATION. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. PO HAD BRIEF CONVERSATION ON THIS SUBJECT WITH KADUNA MILITARY GOVERNOR JIBRIN ON EVENING DECEMBER 5. JIBRIN SAID THAT 70 PERCENT OF STUDENTS WISHED TO RETURN TO CLASS BUT VOCAL 30 PERCENT WERE THREATENING MAJORITY. HE SAID THAT DESPITE FMG'S DECEMBER 1 ORDER CLOSING IMMEDIATELY POLYTECHNICS WHICH BEING BOYCOTTED, HE HAD GIVEN STUDENTS

OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO CLASSES ON DECEMBER 5 AND LATER EXTENDED DEADLINE TO DECEMBER 6.

4. COMMENT: AS NOTED REFTEL THERE SOME SCEPTICISM IN NON-STUDENT CIRCLES HERE ABOUT WISDOM OF ORIGINAL GOVERNMENT DECISION THAT SPARKED BOYCOTT AND CLOSURE. THIS MAY TURN OUT TO BE INSTANCE WHERE STUDENT INDISCIPLINE DOES NOT DRAW WIDE PUBLIC CRITICISM. BURKE

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